Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /115 W

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R 101341Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5325 INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMEMBASSY COLOMBO AMEMBASSY DACCA AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD /AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 109 AMCONSUL MADRAS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

CINCPAC

TAGS: MNUC PARM IN

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POLICY IN THE RAJYA SABHA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

1. TAKING A LEAD FROM THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION CRITICIZING THE GOI'S POSITION ON PNES (NEW DELHI 11173) AND THE FOLLOW-UP CHARGES ABOUT THE NYE VISIT CARRIED IN THE CONGRESS ORGAN NATIONAL HERALS SOON AFTERWARDS (NEW DELHI 11234), SEVERAL CONGRESS AND OTHER OPPOSITION MPS USED THE OCCASION OF THE RAJYA SABHA AUGUST 9 FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE TO TAKE THE GOI OVER THE ATOMIC COALS. ARGUMENTS LARGELY PARALLELED THE FAMILIAR ONES MADE EARLIER IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLUTION, THE NATIONAL HERALD PIECE, THE JULY 13 DEBATE IN THE LOK SABHA (NEW DELHI 9999), AND ELSEWHERE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER VAUPAYEE REPLIED AS FOLLOWS TO THE CHARGES. (TRANSLATION FROM THE HINDI UNCORRECTED

BEGIN QUOTE: NOW WHAT IS BEING SAID ABOUT NUCLEAR

ENERGY?... WE HAVE NOT SIGNED THE TREATY OF NON-PROLIFERATION, NOR ARE WE GOING TO SIGN IT BECAUSE THE TREATY, THE AGREEMENT, IS BASED ON DISCREMINATION, THE TREATY IS UNEQUAL. ON THE ONE HAND THOSE WHO HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE STOCKPILING WEAPONS, AND (ON THE OTHER HAND) WE CANNOT USE NUCLEAR ENERGY EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES (SIC). WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS TREATY. THERE WILL BE NOCHANGE IN THIS POLICY". END OUOTE.

3. VAJPAYEE WAS THEN ASKED ABOUT THE NYE VISIT, HIS COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA QUESTIONER QUERYING WHETHER NYE HAD INSPECTED THE INDIAN NUCLEAR COMPLEX NEAR BOMBAY WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE PM. HE REPLIED: BEGIN OUOTE: IT IS A GOOD THING THAT SUCH A OUESTION HAS BEEN ASKED; MISUNDERSTANDING WILL BE REMOVED. THERE ARE SOME ATOMIC COMPLEXES WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH AMERICAN COOPERATION. THIS IS WHY THE WUESTION OF GETTING ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THEM HAS ARISEN, AND THERE HAS BEEN DELAY IN GIVING THE ENRICHED URANIUM. SOME WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH CANADIAN COOPERATION. TALKS ARE GOING ON WITH CANANDAAND AMERICA ABOUT THESE INSTALLATIONS. WE ARE READY FOR TLAKS. IF THEY WANT TO INSPECT THESE INSTALLATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RULES THEN THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN AGREEABLE TO THIS EVEN EARLIER. THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS NO NEW POLICY. BUT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO OPEN FOR INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION THOSE INSTALLATIONS WHICH OUR SCIENTISTS HAV BUILT BY THEIR OWN ABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND GENIUS. END QUOTE.

- 4. ASKED IF INDIA WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ITS NUCLEAR POTENTIAL, VAJPAYEE SAID: BEGIN QUOTE: IT WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO BE DEVELOPED, THERE IS NO OBSTACLE. BUT I WANT TO MAKE ONE POINT CLEAR, THAT THIS REPEATED REFERENCES TO AMERICA (NOTWITHTANDING), SO FAR AS THE ATOMIC ENERGY IS CONCERNED, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE IN THE VIEWPOINTS OF AMERICA AND RUSSIA. END QUOTE.
- 5. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO INTERVENED IN THE DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR POLICY. WHEN A CONGRESS MEMBER SAID THAT QUOTE WE ALL DID FEEL RATHER UPSET WHEN (THE PM) SAID THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER EXPLOSIONS EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN THIS COUNTRY UNQUOTE, DESAI TERSELY REPLIED QUOTE IT IS NOT NECESSARY UNQUOTE. LATER, ANOTHER ANOTHER CONGRESS MP MENTIONED CRITICALLY THE PM'S EARLIER STATEMENT ON PNES. MORARJI

REPLIED THAT HE HAD SAID THAT QUOTE NOBODY CAN STOP US FROM USING (NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS) FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES UNQUOTE. HOWEVER, IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, WHEN THE MEMBER QUOTED BACK TO HIM THE WORDING OF THIS JULY 13 LOK SABHA STATEMENT (QUOTE IS HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT NO EXPLOSION IS NECESSARY FOR A PEACEFUL USE UNQUOTE) HE DID NOT CONTRADICT OR MODIFY THIS.

7. EMBASSY SENDING SEPTEL DETAILING MEA POSITION ON THE VAUPAYEE AND DESAI STATEMENTS. GOHEEN

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